

REMARKS

The Examiner's Office Action of October 3, 2003 has been received and its contents reviewed. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the consideration given to the above-identified application and the allowance of claims 1-10 with the indication that claims 12, 13 and 16-20 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 11 and 16 have been amended, and claim 13 has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-12 and 14-19 are pending for consideration, of which claims 1 and 11 are independent. By the actions above and the remarks below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lendl (U.S. Patent No. 4,174,182). Also, claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lendl in view of Ohnishi (U.S. Patent No. 5,245,243). In view of the foregoing amendments and the comments provided below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

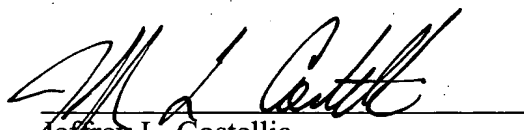
By the foregoing amendment, the subject matter of dependent claim 13, previously indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been incorporated into independent claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the current rejection.



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While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants' representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,



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